REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 2-25 are pending in this application, claims 6, 10, 13, 14, and 22-25 having been amended

The Examiner alleges that Claims 6,10,14 and 23 to 25 contain added subject matter. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

There are two embodiments that these rejected claims address. The first embodiment does not use a resource locator at all, the second embodiment uses one only to discover interface data, and then subsequently communicates directly with other resource locators (see present specification at pages 5-6 and Figures 3-5).

To more clearly show that the claimed inventions are fully supported by the present specification, Applicant has amended the rejected claims, referring to the second embodiment, by replacing the limitation "without communicating with the resource broker" to -- without further reference to the resource broker --. This claim language is expressly supported by the present specification a page 6, lines 17 to 19. The implementation of the second embodiment is described in the present specification at page 6 with reference to Figures 4 and 5.

More specifically, the specification states at page 6, lines 10 to 19 with reference to Figure 5:

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> "a subsystem, here termed a 'component' must first
> authenticate itself with the broker . . . and agree a security
> mechanism for further exchanges. The component then
> registers its interfaces with the broker. . . . From this point,
> the component can discover the interfaces of other
> components within the system by reference to the registry in
> the broker. Once the component understands the interfaces
> of the other components it can communicate freely with the
> other components **without further reference to the
> broker**." (Emphasis supplied.)

Further support for this specific implementation on Applicant's invention is provided,

inter alia, at page 7, lines 3-5 and 18-20.

As regards the first embodiment, there is clear support in the present

specification for broadcasting and for referring to communicating signaling messages

directly between resource locators at page 5, lines 11 to 24. More particularly, those of

ordinary skill in the art would understand the term "signaling overhead" (which appears

at page 5, line 24 of the present specification) to refer to signaling messages (the

overhead being with respect to messages not carrying signaling, i.e., messages

carrying payload). For example, Wikipedia has the following definition:

> "Overhead information: Digital information
> transferred across the functional interface between a user
> and a telecommunications system, or between functional
> units within a telecommunications system, for the purpose of
> directing or controlling the transfer of user information or the
> detection and correction of errors."

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly

being anticipated by Combs et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The present application claims priority from EP application no. 98308384.1, filed on October 14, 1998, which is before the August 3, 1999 filing date of Combs et al. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of Applicant's priority document is attached. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Combs et al. does not constitute prior art and that the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.
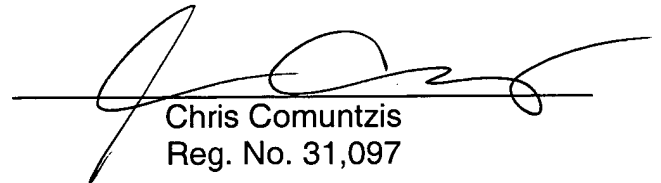
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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